

CLAIMS

1. A method of deactivating a touch screen lock in a portable electronic device comprising a touch screen and means for locking the touch screen, **characterized** by
 - 5 detecting (208) touches on predetermined contact areas on the touch screen in a given order during touch screen lock;
deactivating (210) the touch screen lock once said touches on the predetermined contact areas are detected.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by reducing the size of the predetermined contact areas when a touch on a predetermined contact area fails.
 - 10 3. A method as claimed in claim 2, **characterized** by reducing the size of the predetermined contact areas by at least 25 percent.
 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by detecting (202) a touch on a predetermined reset area on the touch screen during touch screen lock, and entering (204) touch screen lock deactivation state based on the touch on the reset area.
 - 15 5. A method as claimed in claim 4, **characterized** by exiting the touch screen lock deactivation state when the touch on the predetermined contact area fails.
 - 20 6. A method as claimed in claim 4, **characterized** by exiting the touch screen lock deactivation state when no touch on the contact area on the touch screen is detected within a predetermined period of time.
 7. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by detecting a touch on the reset area after a touch on the predetermined contact areas.
 - 25 8. A method as claimed in claim 7, **characterized** by accepting the deactivation of the touch screen lock based on the detection of a touch on the predetermined contact areas and a touch on the reset area.
 9. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by detecting a touch on the predetermined contact areas of the touch screen when the touch on the contact area continues for a predetermined period of time.
 - 30 10. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by entering (218) the device lock state when the touch on the contact areas occurs in a non-(?)predetermined manner a predetermined number of times in succession.
 - 35 11. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by issuing a signal when a touch on a predetermined contact area is detected.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, **characterized** by said signal being a sound, light or vibration signal.

13. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by deactivating the touch screen lock when a touch on said predetermined contact areas is detected during predetermined timeslots.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, **characterized** by playing a predetermined sound during the touch screen lock to facilitate remembering the predetermined timeslots.

15. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by displaying one or more predetermined background images, animations or multimedia presentations on the touch screen during touch screen lock in order to facilitate remembering the predetermined contact areas.

16. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** by specifying, in user profiles, the contact areas based on whose touching the touch screen lock is deactivated.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16, **characterized** by the contact areas defined in the user profile for deactivating the touch screen lock being different in different user profiles.

18. A portable electronic device comprising a touch screen (106) and means (100, 106, 112) for locking the touch screen, **characterized** in that the device comprises means (100, 106) for:

detecting touches on predetermined contact areas on the touch screen in a given order during touch screen lock;

deactivating the touch screen lock once said touches on the predetermined contact areas are detected.

19. A device as claimed in claim 18, **characterized** in that the device comprises means (100, 106) for reducing the size of the predetermined contact areas when a touch on a predetermined contact area fails.

20. A device as claimed in claim 19, **characterized** in that the device comprises means (100, 106) for reducing the size of the predetermined contact areas by at least 25 percent.

21. A device as claimed in claim 18, **characterized** in that it comprises means (100, 106) for detecting a touch on a predetermined reset area on the touch screen during touch screen lock, and entering a touch screen lock deactivation state based on the touch on the reset area.

22. A device as claimed in claim 21, **characterized** in that

the device comprises means (100, 106) for exiting the touch screen lock deactivation state when a touch on the predetermined contact area fails.

23. A device as claimed in claim 21, **characterized** in that it comprises means (100, 106) for exiting the touch screen lock deactivation
5 state when no touch on the contact area on the touch screen is detected within a predetermined period of time after a touch on the reset area.

24. A device as claimed in claim 18, **characterized** in that it comprises means (100, 106) for detecting a touch on the reset area after a touch on the predetermined contact areas.

10 25. A device as claimed in claim 24, **characterized** in that it comprises means (100, 106) for accepting the deactivation of the touch screen lock based on a touch on the predetermined contact areas and a touch on the reset area.

26. A device as claimed in claim 18, **characterized** in that it
15 comprises means (100, 106) for detecting a touch on the predetermined contact areas of the touch screen when the touch on the contact area continues for a predetermined period of time.

27. A device as claimed in claim 18, **characterized** in that it comprises means (100, 106) for entering a terminal lock state when a touch on
20 the contact areas occurs in a non-predetermined manner a predetermined number of times in succession.

28. A device as claimed in claim 18, **characterized** in that it comprises means (100, 106, 114) for issuing a signal when a touch on a predetermined contact area is detected.

25 29. A device as claimed in claim 28, **characterized** in that said signal is a sound, light or vibration signal.

30. A device as claimed in claim 18, **characterized** in that the device comprises means (100, 106) for deactivating the touch screen lock when touches on said predetermined contact areas are detected during prede-
30 termined timeslots.

31. A device as claimed in claim 30, **characterized** in that the device comprises means (100, 106, 114) for playing a predetermined sound during the touch screen lock to facilitate remembering the predetermined timeslots.

35 32. A device as claimed in claim 18, **characterized** in that the device comprises means (100, 106, 108, 110) for displaying one or more

predetermined background images, animations or multimedia presentations on the touch screen during touch screen lock in order to facilitate remembering the predetermined contact areas.

33. A device as claimed in claim 18, **characterized** in that it
5 comprises means (100, 106) for specifying, in user profiles, the contact areas based on whose touching the touch screen lock is deactivated.

34. A device as claimed in claim 33, **characterized** in that the contact areas defined in the user profile for deactivating the touch screen lock are different in different user profiles.